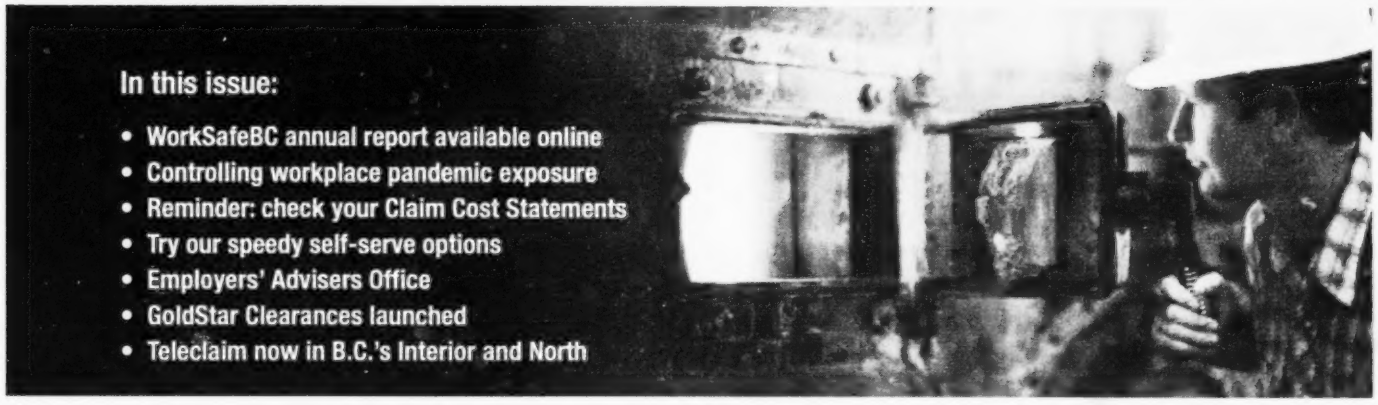
NEWS UPDATE

JUNE 2007

WORK SAFE
WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
worksafebc.com



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WorkSafeBC annual report available online

WorkSafeBC has released its *2006 Annual Report and 2007–2009 Service Plan*. Highlights include:

- WorkSafeBC achieved a total comprehensive surplus of $971 million. The surplus will help to maintain stable rates for employers and ensure WorkSafeBC can continue meeting its financial obligations to injured workers.
- In spite of an active economy, the provincial injury rate remained relatively stable during 2006.
- The aggregate employer premium rate decreased by 4.5 percent and is expected to reach its lowest level in 30 years during 2007.

To view the annual report, visit **www.worksafebc.com/publications/reports/annual_reports/default.asp**.

Controlling workplace pandemic exposure

Employers can now access a guideline to help establish exposure control plans in the workplace in the event of an influenza pandemic. The guideline, finalized following a public consultation and review by a committee of stakeholders, provides information on pandemic influenza, its routes of transmission, and proper risk assessment and controls — including engineering controls, work procedures, and personal protective equipment such as respiratory protection. To assist employers further, WorkSafeBC is developing a range of practical tools, such as sample exposure control plans for small- and medium-sized workplaces. Watch for more details on **WorkSafeBC.com**.

To view the guideline, visit **www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Guidelines.asp** and select G6.34-2: Exposure control plan - Pandemic influenza.

Reminder: check your Claim Cost Statements

If you receive Claim Cost Statements, check them carefully to ensure claim costs are allocated correctly. Beginning July 1, WorkSafeBC will not adjust claim costs if the 75-day time limit has passed since the date of the decision. Similarly, WorkSafeBC will not permit a request to review the allocation decision if the 90-day time limit has passed.

To report any errors or discrepancies in your Claim Cost Statements, call 604 232-7727 or toll-free at 1 888 922-2768, extension 7727.

TIME SAVER

Try our speedy self-serve options

Are payroll reporting and payment deadlines looming? If you're like most employers, you want to avoid estimated payroll and possible penalties. To get the information to us fast, try reporting your payroll and paying your premiums using one of our self-serve options:

- Fast File and Pay: Lets you quickly and easily enter your payroll information and make your payment online without having to sign up for our full range of online services.
- Online Reporting and Remitting: Offers you a full range of account management services.
- Automated phone service: Lets you report your payroll, amend an estimated payroll amount, or make a payment using your credit card.

To access our online services, go to **WorkSafeBC.com** and choose "Report payroll" or "Make a payment." For our automated phone service, call 604 244-6181 or toll-free at 1 888 922-2768.

Questions about workers' compensation?

Did you know you can get independent advice about workers' compensation matters from the Employers' Advisers Office? It's a free, confidential service provided through the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services. Employers' advisers have an in-depth understanding of employers' rights and responsibilities and are available to provide impartial advice on assessment, prevention, and claims matters.

For more information, including the phone number for your local Employers' Advisers Office, visit their web site at **www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao**.

GoldStar Clearances launched

In May, WorkSafeBC introduced GoldStar Clearances. Clearance letters indicate whether a firm is registered with WorkSafeBC and whether it is reporting payroll and paying premiums as required. GoldStar Clearances give qualifying firms advanced clearance to the beginning of the next quarter.

For more information, visit **WorkSafeBC.com** and click on "Get a clearance letter," which you'll find under "Doing Business with WorkSafeBC."

In the May/June issue of WorkSafe Magazine

All new workers, especially young ones, are at greater risk of injury on the job.

To read this story and about other helpful workplace tools, and to find out how to subscribe, visit **WorkSafeMagazine.com**.

Did You Know?

More than half of the workplace accidents involving young workers — aged 15 to 24 — occur during their first six months on the job.

Teleclaim now in B.C.'s Interior and North

Teleclaim – a new WorkSafeBC service designed to simplify the claim process – is now available in B.C.'s Interior and North. Workers in these regions can now call WorkSafeBC directly to report a time-loss injury and start a claim. The service, also available on Vancouver Island, can be reached at 1 888 WORKERS (1 888 967-5377), or #5377 for Telus Mobility, Rogers, and Bell Mobility customers. Teleclaim will be expanded to the rest of the province this fall.

Calendar of events

2007 National Institute for Farm Safety (NIFS) Conference, *June 24 – 28, 2007*

Penticton Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre, Penticton

http://cfaes.osu.edu/~agsafety/NIFS/nifs.htm

CSSE Professional Development Conference 2007
September 9 – 12, 2007

The Fairmont Empress, Victoria

www.csse.org/content/conference/index.asp

BC Municipal Safety Association Conference
Sept 16 – 18, 2007

Penticton Trade & Convention Centre, Penticton

www.municipalsafety.bc.ca/Documents/2007BCMSA-proof3.pdf

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety Forum 2007, *September 17 – 18, 2007*

Marriott Pinnacle Hotel, Vancouver

www.ccohs.ca/events/forum07

Popular contacts

- Claims Call Centre 604 231-8888, toll-free 1 888 967-5377
- Employer Service Centre 604 244-6181 toll-free 1 888 922-2768
- Prevention Information Line 604 276-3100 toll-free 1 888 621-7233
- Human Resources 604 276-3009, toll-free 1 888 757-5552
- Report fraud 1 877 523-3315

News Update is published by the Communications Services Department of WorkSafeBC – the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C.

This newsletter is also available electronically on the WorkSafeBC web site at **http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/newsletters/news_update/**

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